



## **PUBLIC ART REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)**

### **KANSAS CITY STREETCAR**

**ESTIMATED PUBLIC ART PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 100,000**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTALS: January 27, 2014**



#### **DESCRIPTION**

The Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Art Commission is seeking professional artists or artist collaborations to develop innovative, original art to be integrated into the City's Downtown Streetcar Starter Project.

#### **BACKGROUND**

When it becomes operational late in 2015, the KC Streetcar in downtown Kansas City, Mo. will be an exciting, modern transit solution to fill a long-noted gap in the city's resurgent downtown. The two-mile north-south streetcar route (approximately 4 miles round trip) will operate on City streets and connect the River Market area, near the Missouri River, to the renowned Crown Center/Union Station area and will also serve the Central Business District, the Crossroads Arts District and the Kansas City Power & Light District. The route will run largely on Main Street.

The KC Streetcar route will include some 16 stops, spaced roughly every two blocks. Modern electric streetcar vehicles are planned to serve stops with real-time passenger information. This project will support the City's long-established goals to make the corridor a place where people can live, work, shop and be entertained. [www.kcstreetcar.org/home.htm](http://www.kcstreetcar.org/home.htm)

The Municipal Art Commission is seeking artists and/or artist-led teams to develop aesthetic elements for selected stops. These elements will be integrated into the selected stops as enhancements and possibly as identity markers related to the neighborhoods along the passage-way.

#### **BUDGET/COMMISSION**

Artwork for this project will be commissioned through the City of Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Art Commission. While the panel will consider various options for art, it is apparent that integration of artworks into the infrastructure on selected stops provides the most likely opportunity. Artists will coordinate work with city staff, Streetcar representatives and the design team. The estimated budget for artwork and all related art project costs is \$100,000 which will be divided between the selected stops.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

The opportunity to compete for this project is open to all professional artists residing in the United States. The City of Kansas City does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Qualifications by City employees or their relatives, and members of the Artist Selection Panel or Municipal Art Commission or their relatives will not be considered. Experience with public art projects, especially in relation to capital projects, is preferred. Applicants must be able to work effectively within the project timeline and collaborate with the design team and multiple government agencies.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel includes arts professionals familiar with the field of public art, citizens, Streetcar representatives, design professionals and city staff. The panel will select a small group of finalists for interviews and to possibly develop proposals.

The criteria used by the panel will include:

- Artistic Quality, Innovation, and Originality
- Intellectual Expression
- Sensitivity to Site

The City of Kansas City is not required to make selections from these submissions, if, in their opinion, qualifications are not appropriate.

## SUBMISSIONS

Interested artists should submit the following, to be delivered to the address listed on page 4 of this RFQ by 4:00 PM Central Time, on January 27, 2014. Late submittals will be returned unopened.

Please submit one packet/envelope with items 1-3 below collated, in order, into 14 individual sets and staple each set in the upper left-hand corner:

1. **A letter of interest** (typed in at least 10 point font, maximum two pages front to back) outlining your approach to public art as well as providing the panel with insights regarding your interest in making art for the City of Kansas City, the Streetcar and the public realm in general; what you bring to the project as an artist; challenges and/or sources of inspiration presented by the Streetcar project and site; what you would hope to gain from this experience; and any other comments that might help to differentiate you as a candidate for this program. **(10 printed copies and please include the letter of interest as a .pdf on the CD-ROM - see #4 below)**
2. **A professional resume/CV** (limit 3 pages front to back). Artists working collaboratively must submit a resume/CV for each collaboration member **(10 printed copies per team member and please include each resume/CV as a .pdf file on the CD-ROM - see #4 below)**
3. **An annotated image list** of past works that clearly indicates the title, dimensions, materials, date of work, and locations, as well as project budget and commissioning entity, if applicable. Image names must match image names on the CD-ROM and be in the exact same order. A thumbnail image adjacent to each list entry is highly recommended to assure the panel understands what they're seeing. **(10 printed copies and please include the annotated image list as a .pdf on the CD-ROM - see #4 below)**

In addition to the 14 individual collated sets, please include:

4. **One (1) CD-ROM** with .pdf copies of 1-3 above and up to 15 clearly labeled images of related past work in JPEG format:
  - Maximum file size per image approximately 1-3 MB
  - Name each image with the following format in the order you want them to appear: lastnamefirstnameimagenumber.jpg. For example, filenames for artist Pablo Picasso would be picassopablo01.jpg, picassopablo02.jpg, picassopablo03.jpg, and so on.

Label the CD-ROM clearly with the artist's name, team name or studio name. The Municipal Art Commission is not responsible for distortion or alteration of images as they appear on monitors as projected.

Movie clips on the CD or a separate DVD accompanying the digital images must be cued and no more than three minutes maximum length. Movie clips must be formatted in Windows Media Player or QuickTime only.

5. Up to three individual pieces, total, of selected printed materials such as articles, catalogues, etc.

6. Three references with current contact information (1 copy).

Please do not use any binding, folders or notebooks in packaging your materials. Materials will not be returned.

## **SUBMITTAL DELIVERY**

Submitted materials may be hand-delivered or mailed but must arrive by the deadline, January 27, 2014 by 4:00 PM Central Time. Postmarks are not acceptable. Late submittals will be returned unopened.

Municipal Art Commission/Streetcar  
17th Floor, City Hall  
414 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

For further information, or to request a PDF version of the RFQ by email, contact the Kansas City Municipal Art Commission (816) 513-2538 or email: [porter.arnell@kcmo.org](mailto:porter.arnell@kcmo.org).

## **ANTICIPATED ART PROJECT SELECTION TIMELINE**

Qualifications Due: January 27, 2014 by 4:00 p.m., Central Time  
Panel Review(s): February/March 2014  
RFP to selected artists: February/March 2014  
Proposals Reviewed/Artist(s) Selected: March/April 2014  
Estimated Building Project Completion Date: Spring 2015

## **ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL ART COMMISSION**

*The City of Kansas City, Missouri, Municipal Art Commission was established in 1926 by the City Charter and comprises a 13-member board including the Mayor, the President of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and the Chairman of the City Plan Commission, all ex-officio members; and six appointees of the Mayor.*

*By City Charter, the Art Commission's responsibilities include the approval of works of art on, or extending over any City property; the design of buildings, bridges, fences, and other structures built by the City; and any privately owned signs, skywalks, or other structures that extend over public property. City ordinances also provide that no existing work of art owned by the City can be moved or altered without Commission approval except under emergency conditions.*

*In addition to its legislated responsibility for approving all encroachments onto city property, the primary role of the Municipal Art Commission is to oversee the administration of the Kansas City One Percent for Art Program. Through the One Percent for Art Program, the mission of the Municipal Art Commission is to serve as a catalyst for artistic growth and aesthetic excellence in our communities, and in doing so, enhance the vitality of Kansas City and enrich the lives of its citizens.*